

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 6732

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GR US PINT

SUBJ: FAREWELL CALL ON FORMER PRIME MINISTER PANAYOTIS

KANELLOPOULOS

1. DURING MY FAREWELL CALL ON FORMER PRIME MINISTER KANELLOPOULOS I EXPRESSED MY DEEP ADMIRATION FOR THE MAGNIFICENT MANNER IN WHICH HE HAD CARRIED THE TORCH OF LIBERTY AND FREEDOM WITHIN GREECE DURING THESE HARD YEARS OF OPPRESSIVE DICTATORSHIP. I EMBHASIZED MY GREAT JOY THAT I WAS LEAVING GREECE A DEMOCRACY, STRESSING THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN AND REMAIN SO FRIENDLY TO GREECE AND THE GREEK PEOPLE DEEPLY SHARED THESE FEELINGS. ON THE OTHER HAND, I SAID THAT WE ALL REGRETTED THE PRESENT ANTI-AMERICANISM, AND THAT I HOPED OUR RELATIONS COULD BE BASED UPON THE SOLID AND INDESTRUCTIBLE ELEMENTS OF FRIENDSHIP BINDING OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

2. KANNELLOPOULOS AGREED BUT SAID CYPRUS HAD BEEN TRUMATIC AND STILL REMAINED A REAL PROBLEM BETWEEN US. NOTING THIS, I INTERJECTED THAT CYPRUS WAS IMPORTANT BUT MORE IMPORTANT WAS REESTABLISHMENT OF GREEK DEMOCRACY UPON A SOUND AND SOLID BASIS. CYPRUS SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO INTERFERE WITH THIS HIGHEST IMPERATIVE. AND I COULD NOT FORESEE A NEW DEMOCRACY IN GREECE WITHOUT THE CLOSEST RELATIONS WITH THE
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GREATEST DEMOCRACY IN THE WORLD--THE U.S.

3. KANELLOPOULOS SAID CARAMANLIS HAS SOME REAL PROBLEMS BUT IN HIS VIEW PM SHOULD BE MOVING FASTER TO CLEAN OUT THE JUNTA ELEMENTS IN ALL LEVELS OF ARMED FORCES AND CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE REALIZED, AND MOD AVEROFF AGREED WITH HIM, THAT GREECE WAS NOT YET ENTIRELY OUT OF THE WOODS INsofar AS DEFINING THE VITAL AREA OF THE ROLE AND AUTHORITY OF THE GREEK ARMY IN POLITICAL LIFE.

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